

## Meeting Notes

June 16 2014 9 AM

Department of Water Resources – Flood Division Office  
3310 El Camino Sacramento, CA

### Evaluation of the MUN Beneficial Use in Surface Ag Dominated Water Bodies

#### *Attendees:*

##### Department of Water Resources, Flood Division

Jon Erickson

Mark List

Joel Farias

Karen Hull

##### Central Valley Water Board

Anne Littlejohn

Cindy Au Yeung

#### *Meeting Objectives:*

- Provide a brief overview of the project
- Review hydrology and water management in the study area

#### *Meeting Summary*

##### **1. Update**

- a. A brief overview of the current MUN project was provided covering:
  - i. Overview of water body categorization process (Flow Chart 1)
  - ii. Schedule for the Basin Plan Amendment
- b. This initial MUN study will lead to a broader analysis of all the appropriate beneficial uses in the Central Valley's agriculturally dominated water bodies

##### **2. Hydrology and Water Management**

- a. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) manages the Wadsworth Canal and the East Interceptor Canal in the Live Oak subarea and the Cherokee Canal in the Biggs subarea.
- b. Channels were constructed with the dual purposes of draining flood waters during the winter and conveying agricultural drainage during the irrigation season

- c. DWR conducts maintenance on these three channels, including debris removal, vegetation control and excavation. The Cherokee Canal also requires removal of beaver dams.
- d. DWR has a State Water Resources Control Board NPDES permit for Aquatic Pesticide application. In Live Oak area, the application is for controlling primrose and is sprayed annually during the early summer when the plant is in bloom. In the Cherokee Canal, the application of herbicide is less than every year because vegetation is primarily controlled by hand or mechanical removal.
- e. The only water quality monitoring that is routinely done by DWR is that related to the NPDES permit requirements, before and after herbicide application.
- f. Rice drainage is the primary Ag contributor to the drainage in all three channels.
- g. DWR does not manage any of the dams or weirs on these three channels – this is done by the local water districts (Sutter Extension in the Live Oak/Yuba City area, Richvale, Western Irrigation, Durham Mutual and Biggs-West Gridley districts in the Biggs subarea)
- h. Map review confirmed locations for significant inputs and outputs to the three channels.

### **3. Other**

- a. DWR staff expressed concern as to how this effort might affect the possible NPDES permit requirements for three other water collection canals in the Yuba City area with pumping plants that discharge water to Sutter Bypass during high flood events. Staff responded that this MUN evaluation project did not affect the beneficial uses and associated water quality objectives set in the Sutter Bypass, so there would be no foreseeable impact to this issue.

### **4. Next Steps**

- a. Central Valley Water Board will send a draft water body categorization report to meeting representatives for review and feedback.
- b. Central Valley Water Board will keep representatives updated on project schedule.